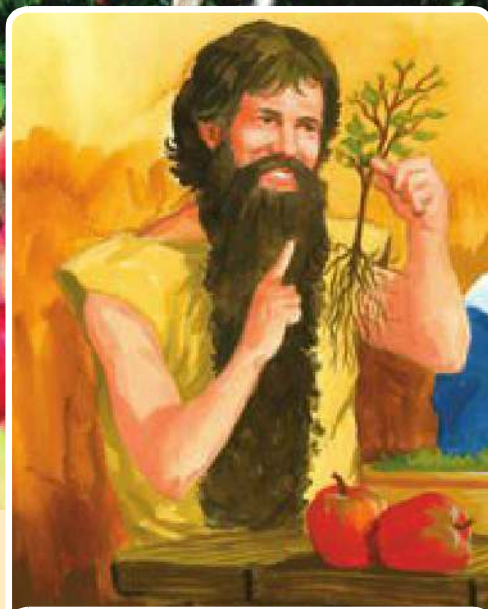
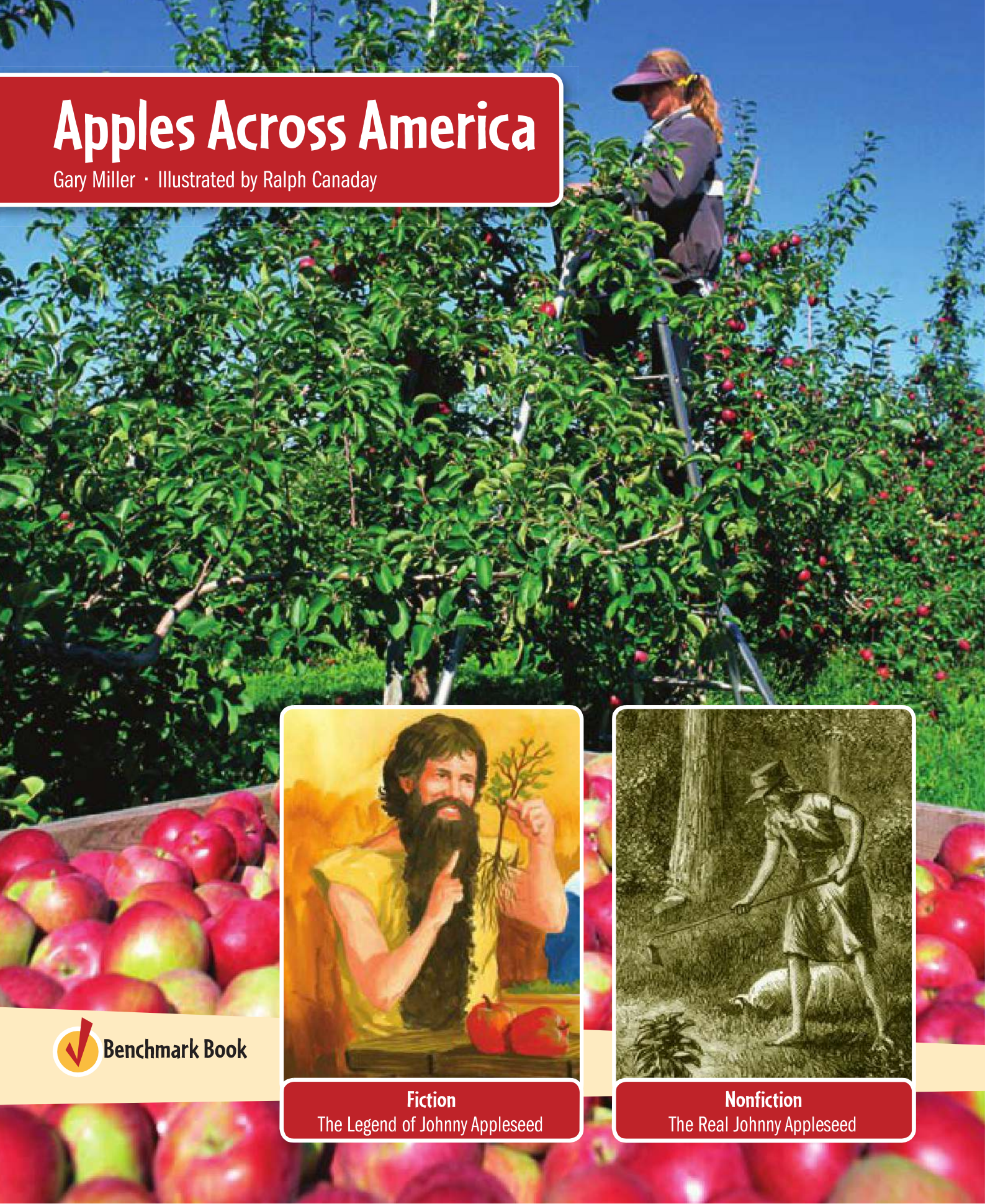


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Apples Across America

Gary Miller · Illustrated by Ralph Canaday



Fiction

The Legend of Johnny Appleseed



Nonfiction

The Real Johnny Appleseed



Benchmark Book

Level L

Folktale

Expository

Reading Characteristics

- Average sentence length: 11 words
- Interest level is intermediate/middle school
- Variety of writing styles
- Story has one main plot that may span a longer period of time and a solution with multiple events
- Characters with different perspectives

Nonfiction Features

- Headings
- Captions
- Time Line
- Bird's-eye View
- Index
- Glossary

Literacy by Design Benchmark Book: *Apples Across America*

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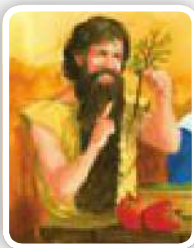
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Apples Across America

Gary Miller • Illustrated by Ralph Canaday

Contents



The Legend of Johnny Appleseed2

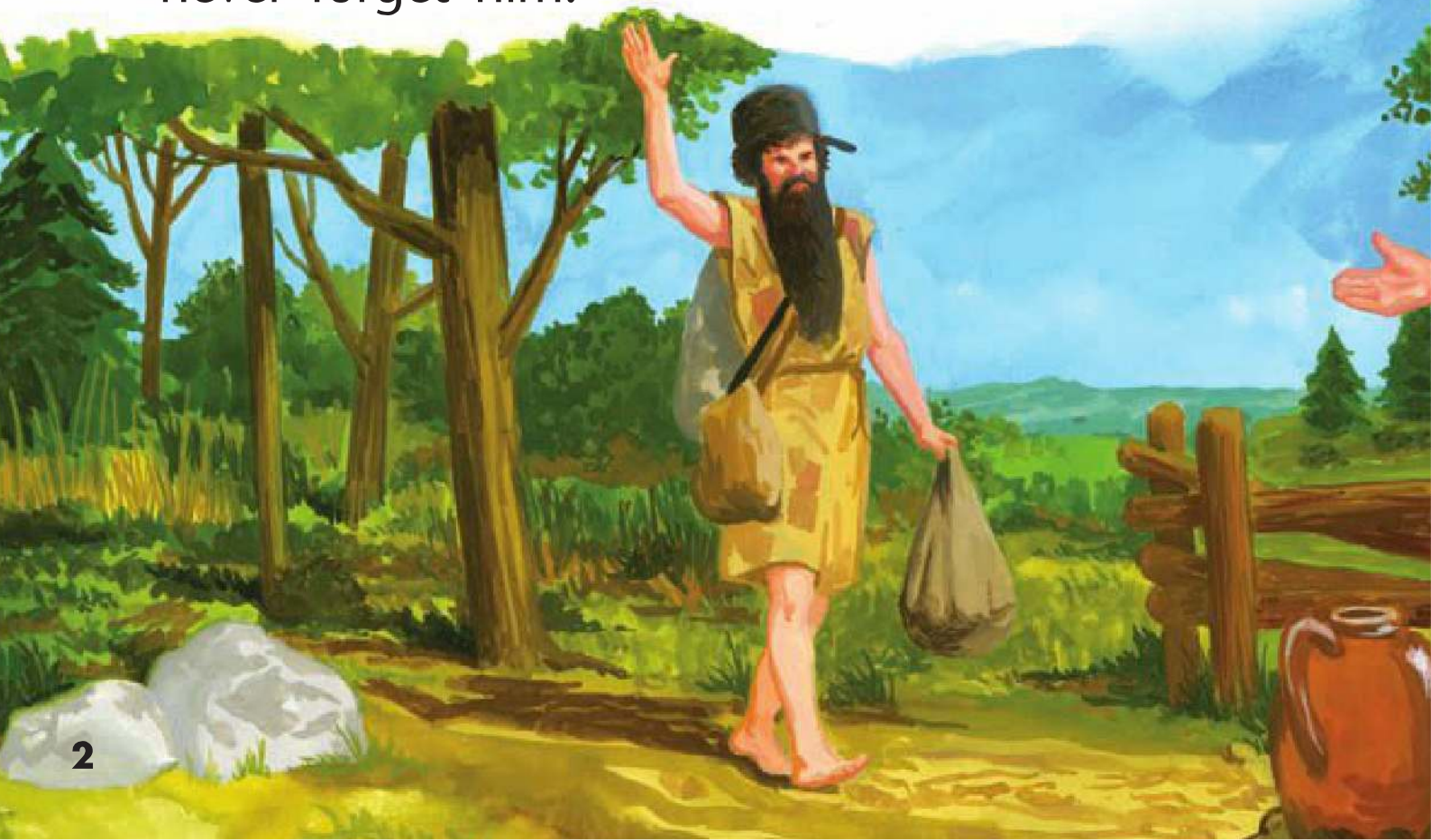


The Real Johnny Appleseed10



THE LEGEND OF Johnny Appleseed

Emma and her family had lived in a log cabin on the Ohio River for ten months. Their farm was in a part of the United States called the frontier. Settlers from the East were moving to Ohio, and Emma's family welcomed many travelers in for a meal. One evening Emma met a visitor, and she would never forget him.



He was barefoot, and his clothes were made of patches. His beard hung to his waist, and he wore an iron pot for a hat.

"I walked here from Massachusetts, and I sure am hungry!" he said. "May I share a meal with you?"



Ma and Pa invited him for dinner.

“People like to call me Johnny Appleseed,”
the visitor said, “because I plant apple trees.”



Johnny told Emma and her family how he found fruits and vegetables to eat during his travels. His favorite fruit was the apple.

"I've planted thousands of small apple trees already," he said. "Soon there will be apple trees all across the frontier!"

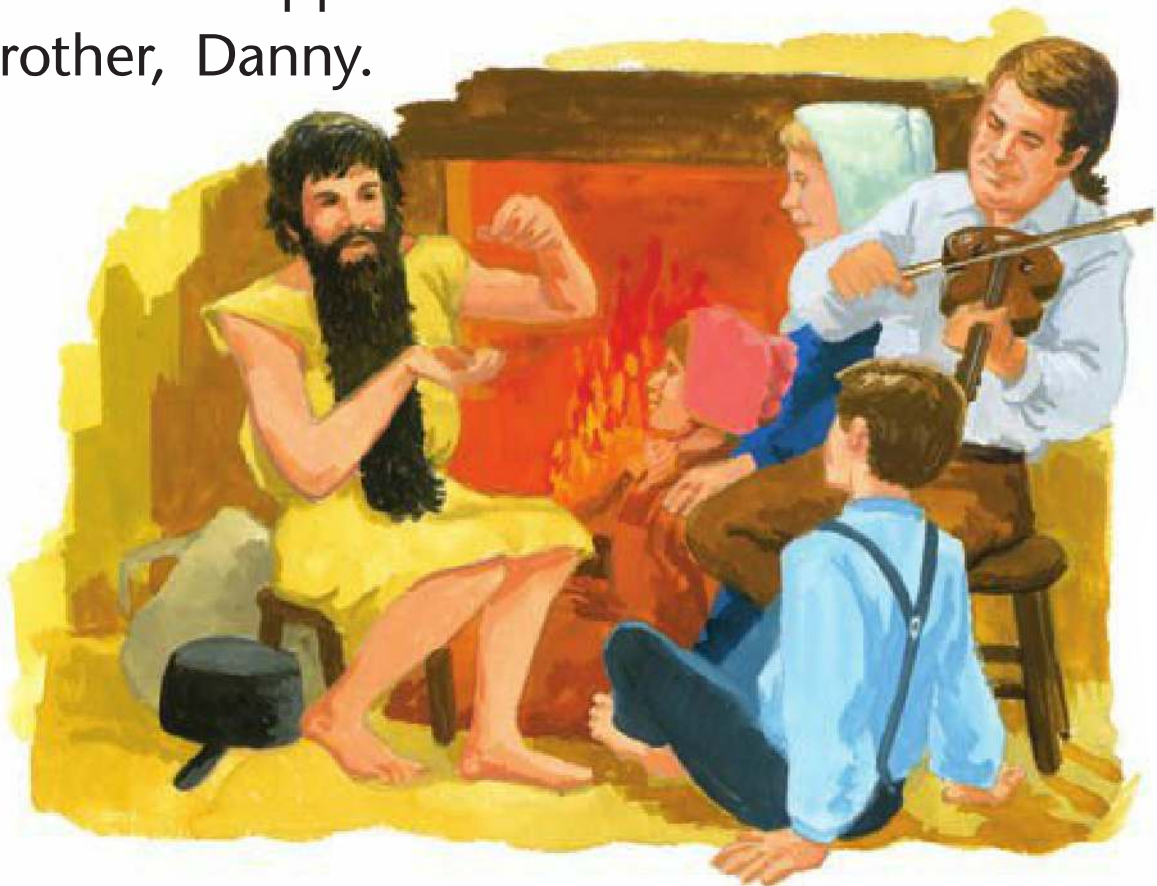


After dinner Johnny told a story about a bear. "That bear was mighty angry," Johnny said. "He chased me up a tree and wouldn't let me down!"

"What did you do?" Emma asked.

"I had a long talk with that bear," said Johnny. "I told him that honey was a lot tastier than an apple eater like me. I told him that I might share some honey with him if he promised to be nice."

"What happened?" asked Emma's brother, Danny.



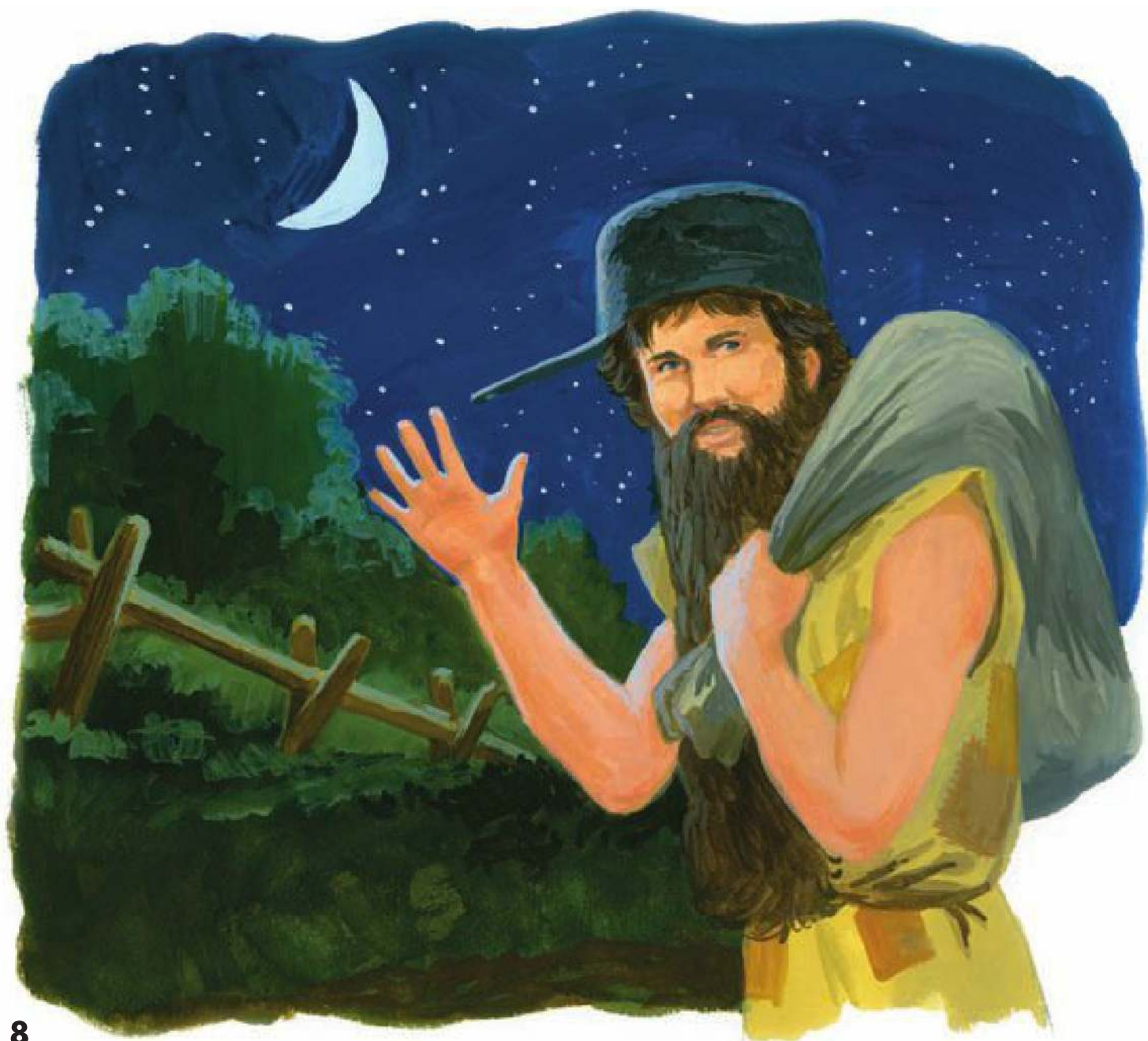


"That big, old bear promised not to eat me, and we shared a pot of honey," said Johnny. "I told him all about planting apple trees, and he told me all about catching fish with his claws!"

"Animals can't talk!" said Danny.

Johnny Appleseed laughed out loud and said, "Sure they can. You just need to know how to listen to them."

Pa told Johnny he could stay the night, but Johnny said, "I like to sleep outside. The plants are my pillow, and the stars are my joy!" Then Johnny thanked us for dinner and stepped into the cool night air.



The next morning, I went to see if Johnny Appleseed was still asleep outside. Johnny was gone, but he left us something to remember him by. In our yard, he had planted ten tiny apple trees.

Before long they grew into giant apple trees. These trees gave us sweet apples for many years. And thanks to Johnny Appleseed, the trees are still there today!





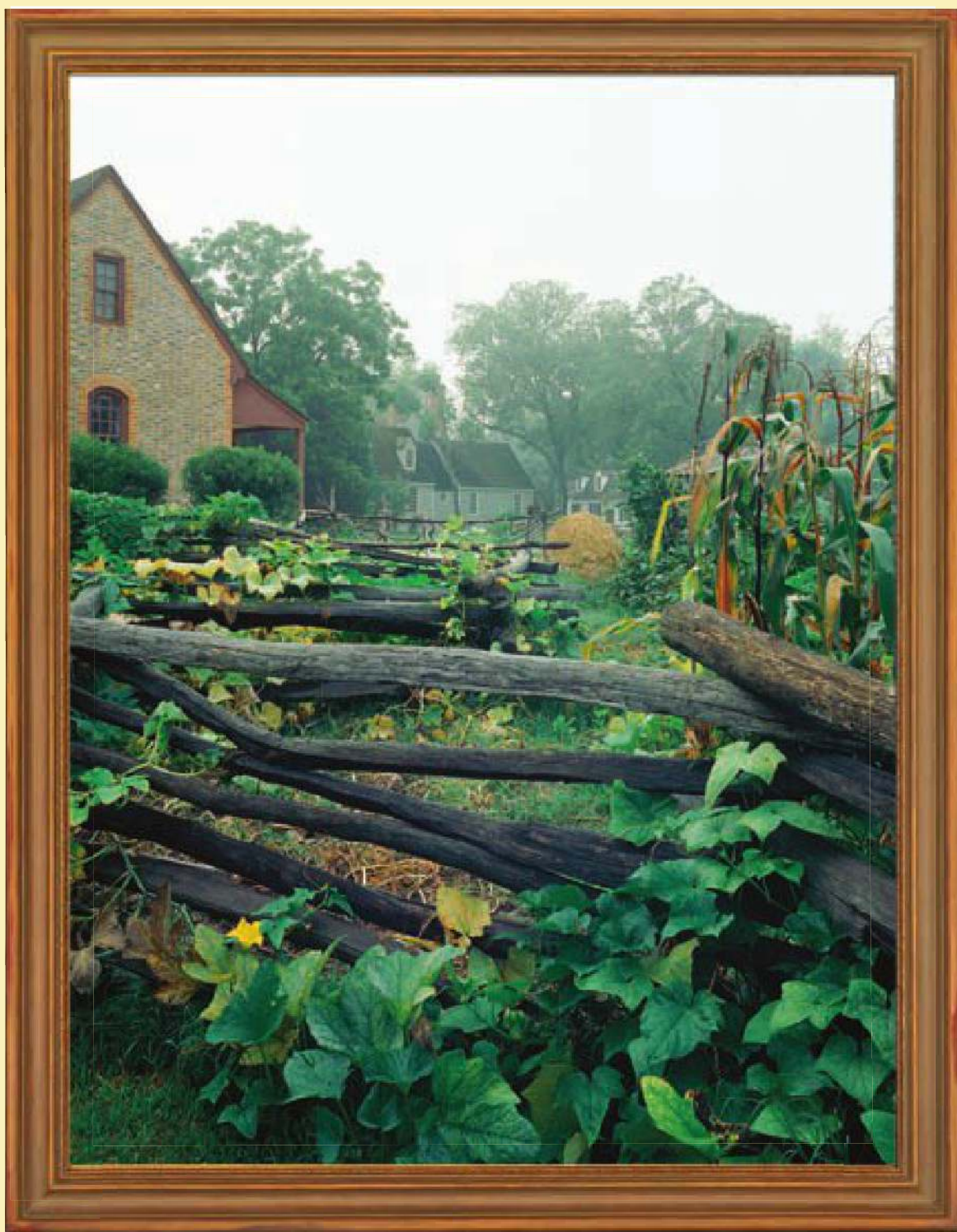
THE REAL Johnny Appleseed

Some people think that the story of Johnny Appleseed is a **legend**, but Johnny was a real person. His name was John Chapman, and he was born in Massachusetts in 1774. John didn't talk to animals, but he did live and work on the American **frontier**.

During that time, most Americans lived on farms and didn't travel far from home. They raised cows and chickens. They also planted squash, beans, and corn.

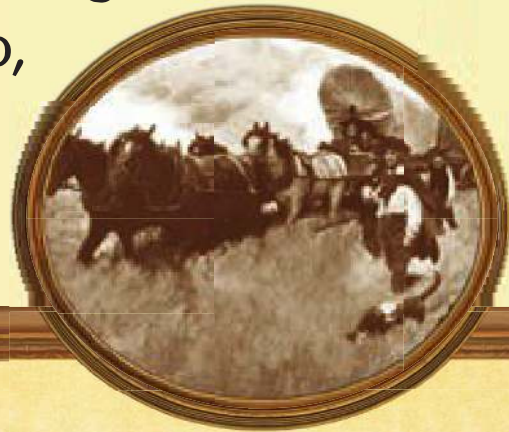


John Chapman was born in MA on Sept. 26, 1774.



Early Americans planted squash, beans, and corn, which grew well together.

Around 1800 John left Massachusetts to travel on his own. **Settlers** from the East were moving to the frontier lands in Ohio. Most settlers traveled in wagons, but not John. He walked to Ohio, planting apple trees along the way.



John Chapman's Travels





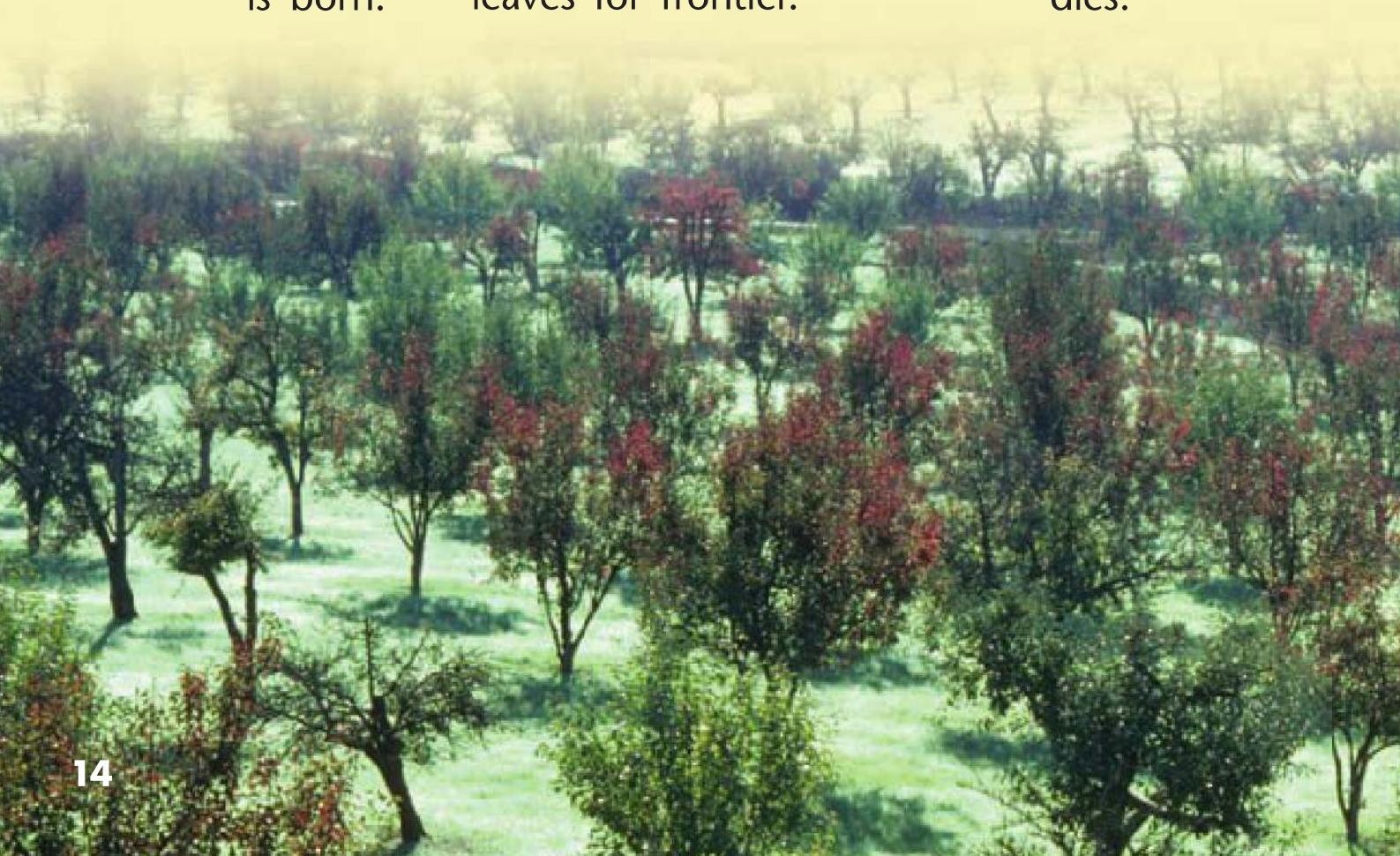
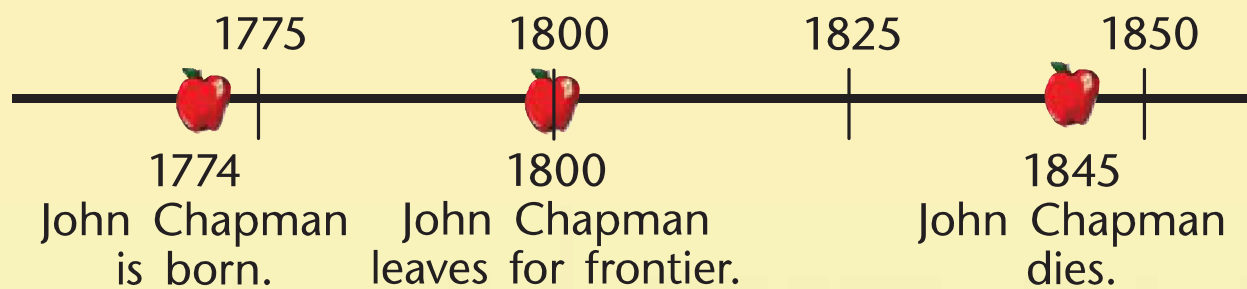
Settlers on the frontier built their own houses.

Life on the frontier was hard. Settlers chopped down trees to build houses. They plowed fields and planted crops.

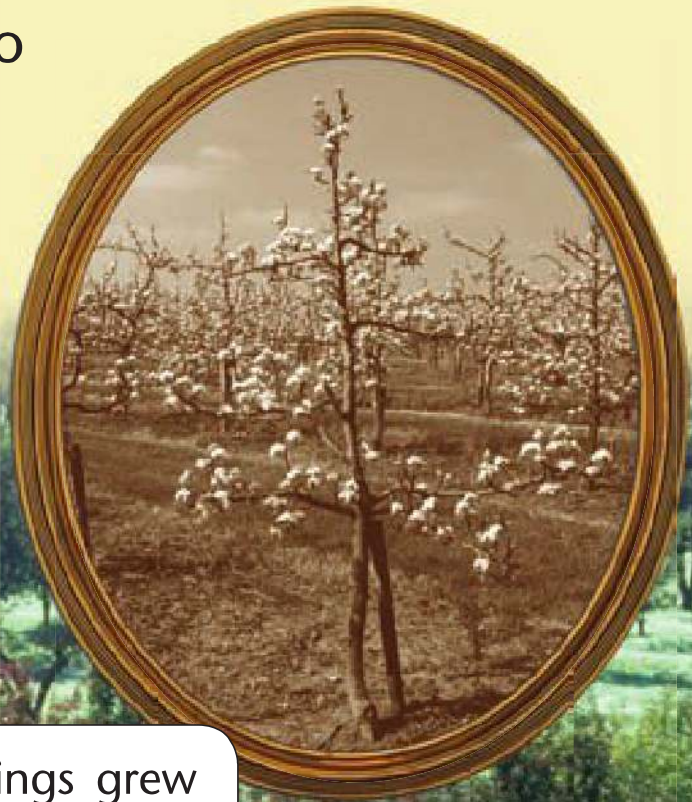
One day John visited a **mill** that crushed apples to make cider. John took leftover apple seeds and planted them.

People growing **orchards** asked John for help. Once his apple seeds had grown into **seedlings**, John sold the tiny trees to new settlers and took care of many orchards.

Thanks to John's seedlings, apple orchards grew all across the frontier. Many of these orchards are still around today!



John Chapman spent his later years living in Indiana. On March 18, 1845, he died while visiting a friend in Ohio. People soon began telling stories about John and his apple seeds. Some stories were true, and some were made up. These stories became the legend of Johnny Appleseed. Today people honor the apple grower who gave so much to others.



Chapman's seedlings grew into big apple orchards.



Glossary

frontier area that is not settled by people

legend story from the past that people have believed to be true

mill building with machines for making products such as flour, cider, or wood for home building

orchards lands where fruit trees grow

seedlings small, young trees

settlers people who move into a new area



Index

Chapman, John 10–15

frontier 10, 12-14

orchards 14

settlers 12-14

wagons 12



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